

Remarks

The various parts of the Office Action (and other matters, if any) are discussed below under appropriate headings.

Claim Objections

The objection to claim 11 has been resolved by amending claim 11 to depend from claim 1.

Claim Rejections

Although exception is taken to the rejections advanced by the Examiner, claim 1 has been amended to recite a structural feature arising from the manner in which the abrasion-resistant particles are coated with an adhesion promoter that is first dried before the abrasion-resistant particles are applied to the paper. Support for the amendment can be found on page 2, 3rd paragraph, of the description.

The resultant paper with the particles so-processed is not disclosed nor even hinted at in the prior art applied by the examiner. In WO 00/44984, the abrasion-resistant particles are added to a dispersion containing 100 parts of amino resin, 0.5 - 2.5 parts of a silane adhesion promoter, 5 - 25 parts of a flow promoting agent, 0.1 - 0.4 parts of a wetting agent, and 0.05 - 0.4 parts of a separating agent. The adhesion promoter makes up only 2.5 % of the dispersion and thus it cannot be said the particles are coated by a dried liquid composed substantially of the adhesion promoter.

In US 6,835,421, the whole dispersion, not dried particles, is applied to the paper and the paper is subsequently dried.

US 2003/0138600 includes in pertinent part essentially the same teaching.

US 4,473,613, cited against claims 8 and 9, describes a conventional laminate panel and resin dispersion used for impregnating papers.

Dependent Claims

The dependent claims recite still further features not found in a combination similar to that claimed. Inasmuch as the dependent claims are allowable for at least the same reasons as the claims from which they depend, the Examiner's comments in respect thereof need not be addressed and this should not be construed to be an acquiescence in the contentions made by the Examiner.

Restriction Requirement

Upon allowance of claim 1, claims 12-14 should be rejoined inasmuch as they depend from claim 1 and include the sub-combination of claim 1.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, request is made for timely issuance of a notice of allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

RENNER, OTTO, BOISSELLE & SKLAR, LLP

/Don W. Bulson/

Don W. Bulson, Reg. No. 28,192
1621 Euclid Avenue
Nineteenth Floor
Cleveland, Ohio 44115
(216) 621-1113

M:\B\BARD\IP\0126\IP0126US-R02.DOC